
Promotion of Learning in India by Early European Settlers by Narendra Nath Law
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Source: *The Journal of Race Development*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (Apr., 1916), pp. 475-476
Published by:
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29738174>
Accessed: 01-08-2014 01:19 UTC

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NOTES AND REVIEWS

Promotion of Learning in India by Early European Settlers. By
NARENDRA NATH LAW. Longmans, Green and Company,
Publishers.

This volume is only one of a series prepared on the promotion of learning in India at different times and under different rulers. Both its brevity and its lack of inclusiveness suggests that it might have been better united with one or all the other volumes in a book. The information it contains is very limited and unsatisfactory both as respects to the time it covers—before 1800 A. D.—and as respects to the people (Europeans) by whom this learning was imparted. It is moreover wanting in fullness of details and in careful analysis of the work described. This book includes less material than fifty pages of this Journal. Few would care to study the educational efforts of those early years in India save as they constitute a part of a larger work.

This volume, however, has points of interest and of value. That an Indian gentleman should write in detail on matters of such historic interest to India, a work, moreover, done by Britishers in those early days, is an interesting novelty. History is the only department of literature that Indians have hitherto been unable to write. They are so poetic in their temperament, so given to oriental hyperbole that the sobriety of historic facts has either not appealed to them or has strongly grown under them into legends and myths. But, under the restraints of modern culture, Hindus are now for the first time, becoming chroniclers of the history of their native land.

It is interesting to learn here of Dr. Bell's "System of Education" then introduced in that land. It has also been called "The Pupil Teacher's System," for its principle feature is the utilizing of pupils as teachers of the lower classes. Each class of boys has an equal number of teachers and pupils. In the school there was, therefore, only one master and one usher; the rest of the work being done by the students. Dr. Bell, in this system, patterned somewhat after the old methods of the Hindu indigenous school.

One is impressed by the feebleness of the attempts of the East India Company a century or two ago to educate any of its British or Eurasian subjects. Its few "Charity Schools" sought to give only the most elementary education to the boys, while it was not regarded as necessary or desirable to teach the girls even to read and to write. It is interesting to learn that even in those early days and for the English and the Eurasians, the British missionary and chaplain figure so conspicuously as the founders and promoters of schools. Some valuable information is also given in reference to the introduction of printing and the initial work of building up libraries in that land.

J. P. JONES.

The Former Philippines Through Foreign Eyes. Edited by AUSTIN CRAIG. Manila: Philippine Education Company. 1916. Pp. 552.

This volume, printed in the Philippines by Filipinos, is designed to render accessible to readers two books which are now rare but which are essential if one is to form a fair picture of the Philippines in the nineteenth century under the Spanish régime. They are Feodor Jagor's *Travels in the Philippines* and the *State of the Philippines in 1810* by Tomas de Comyn. Included with these is a long description of Manila and Sulu in 1842 by Com. Chas. Wilkes, U. S. N., who was with the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-42; a brief description of Manila in 1819 by Lieut. John White, U. S. N.; a reprint from the Smithsonian Institute Report for 1899 of Dr. Rudolf Virchow's article on the Peopling of the Philippines; together with two early English clippings giving brief accounts of conditions in the islands. The audience whom the book is intended to reach would seem to be of two kinds, Filipino students of their own history and Americans who still believe that all Filipinos have been and are naked savages.

Jagor's *Travels* are a vivacious record of the visit to the Philippines in 1859-60 of the author, a German scientist, whose keen insight and impartial judgment has furnished a valuable picture of the country, as he saw it, and the economic, social and political condition of its inhabitants. He closes his description with a prediction of the passing of the Spanish dominion and the increase of American influence in the islands. Comyn's work of an earlier date is an interesting commentary on the causes which led to the